GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5256
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008
MODERNIZATION OF MERCANTILE MARINE DEPTT
Dube Shri Ramesh

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Union Government proposes to modernize the Mercantile Marine Department in order to assist the marine Sector;

(b)if so, the details thereof; and

(c)if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (c): Yes Sir. Government has initiated several steps to modernize and streamline the functioning of the MMD in order to assist the marine sector. Under the scheme of E-Governance, a programme to link all Mercantile Marine Departments and Head Office to a common database on line is underway. E-Governance when finally put in place will bring about transparency and efficiency in the system which will go a long way in streamlining various statutory functions discharged by the Mercantile Marine Departments (MMDs). The Directorate General of Shipping has delegated survey and certification of all vessels except passenger vessels to Indian Register of Shipping (IRS), the functions that were so far being carried out by the surveyors of MMDs. An Audit of recognized classification societies is being put in place to ensure that they adhere to the necessary standards and ethics of service. Two new Regional Offices have been set up at Kandla and Kochi.

In addition, district level offices of the Mercantile Marine Departments have been opened at New Mangalore, Paradip and Haldia.